

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, February 1, 1892, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Mother. Steamship Werra, Straits of Gibraltar, February 1st, 1892. 2:30 A. M. My dear Mama:

I have just been up on deck — to have my first glimpse of Africa — a mere feeble glimmer of light on the right bow — and on the left is a light house in Spain.

We sighted Portugal this afternoon — and exchanged signals with Cape St. Vincent — so I suppose the American newspapers will note our arrival in the morning. We could have reached Gibraltar earlier — but the Captain slowed down so as to enable us to enter the harbor of Gibraltar by daylight. We have had a very pleasant passage so far. Rather rough for a few days — but Mr. McCurdy and I are both of us good sailors — and have enjoyed the voyage. For two days we have had regular summer weather — smooth seas — blue skies and plenty of sunshine. As we reach Gibraltar so early and stay for such a short time — only one hour — I have determined to sit up — so as not to miss a glimpse of the great fortress. I hope sincerely that I may receive some telegram from Washington telling me that you are all well. I have been very anxious about you all. You and Papa were both ailing when I left. Mrs. Hubbard was in bed — Mr. Hubbard not very bright — and Grace had lost her voice. I am getting very anxious also to hear from Mabel. We have a very nice set of passengers on board. Even the smoking-room set are free from gambling or drinking — or loose talking. I am 2 going to write a long letter to Mr. Hubbard about the National College for Deaf-mutes. I want him to keep an eye on the Appropriation bill in Congress — and see that the Appropriation for Oral Instruction is not dropped.

I hope Aunt Ellen's rheumatism has departed in peace — and that all are well.

Library of Congress

Have been busy studying the statistics of articulation teaching and will now give the results to Mr. Hubbard.

Much love to Papa, Mary, Louisa and all — and with a heartfelt for yourself.

Your loving son, Alec. Mrs. A. Melville Bell, 1525 — 35th Street, West Washington, D. C.
U. S. A.